

# **SOUTH BELLEVUE COMMUNITY CENTER Challenge Course Expansion**

**Community Meeting  
Sept. 27, 2012**



# Agenda

**Introductions**

**Proposed project**

**New property acquisition**

**Background & mission-Challenge Course**

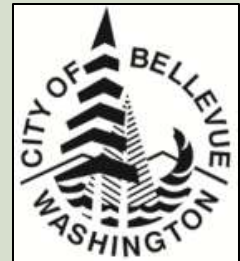
**Project**

- **Site Considerations**
- **Zipline/Aerial Tour overview**
- **Design Layout**
- **Features Elements**
- **Trees and wildlife**

**Programs and operations management**

**Contact Info and Next Steps**

**Q & A**



## Introduction-Project Team

**City of Bellevue-** Scott Vander Hyden- Project Manager

Brad Bennett- SBCC Manager

**Designer-** Erik Marter, Synergo Inc. & KPFF Engineering

**Tree Assessor and Consultant-** Scott Baker, Tree Solutions

**Wildlife Assessment and Consultant-** Pat Skillings, Skillings & Connolly





# Eastgate Park and SBCC



Current Challenge  
Course Location





## **New Parks Property Acquisition**

**Undeveloped – 14.5 Acres**

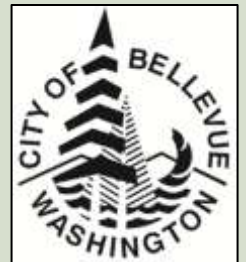
# **Challenge Course Expansion Project Components**

## **Additions to the existing High Ropes Course:**

- ❖ **exit zip**
- ❖ **cargo net**

## **Newly proposed elements:**

- ❖ **zipline tour (5-7ea lines varied lengths 100-500')**
- ❖ **aerial suspension bridges (1-2ea varied lengths)**



## SBCC Challenge Course Mission

The Bellevue Challenge Course guides individuals, teams, and organizations to realize their full potential by helping them broaden their thinking, improving interpersonal skills, valuing differences, being open to change, enhancing communication skills, strengthening decision-making skills, and working to achieve goals for the benefit of the team or organization.





# Challenge Course Background



- Identified in mid-late 90's as a priority Youthlink program
- Developed as part of the Eastgate park master plan
- Built in conjunction with SBCC
- In operation since 2006
- Includes a high course, low course, and vertical play pen
- Currently serves an average of 1000 participants per year
- Exceptional safety record
- Discovery challenge program opened in 2011 for increased accessibility





# Project Objectives & Considerations

## Design and Development

- Good neighbors
- Existing challenge course
- State of the art technologies
- Use of existing trails, topo, and flow patterns
- Public and participant safety
- Compliance w/ ATTC standards  
(Association for Challenge Course Technology)

## Programming

- Inclusive and accessible
- Affordable to groups and families
- High cost recovery
- Certified operators
- Scheduling model (reservation system)

## Critical Area Preservation

- Good stewards
- Low impact
- Tree and forest health
- Wildlife habitat
- Interpretive opportunities
- Opportunities for enhancements



# What is a Zipline?



Zip lining is an outdoor activity during which a rider wears a harness that is securely connected, via carabineer and pulley system, to a cable suspended high above the ground. The rider then glides along the cable for a uniquely aerial trail experience.

Tours begin with the participant being securely fastened in a climbing harness connected to the zip line trolley. The trolley is what propels you forward on the line. A professional, well-qualified attendant is there at the beginning to see you off and there is always an attendant at the end as well. That way, your take-offs and landings are completely safe.



# PRELIMINARY ZIP COURSE LAYOUT





# Aerial Tour Elements and Operations

**Aerial Bridges**



**Safety Gear**



**Spiral Stairs**



**Qualified Operator**



**Tree platforms**





# Tree, Forest, and Wildlife Habitat



## Tree and Forest Health

- Individual trees evaluated for project use and health
- Platform design and attachment method review
- Minimal tree removal to accommodate tour layout
- Evaluation of forest and identify hazard trees
- Mitigation planting as needed

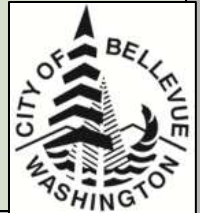
## Wildlife and Habitat

- Site evaluation and report w/ recommendations
- Co-exist with natural surroundings
- Low impact on forest floor (aerial trail)



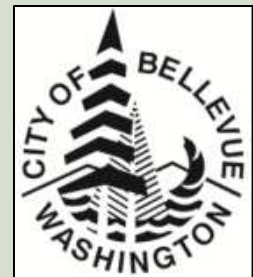
## **Program and Operations Management**

- **Inclusive and accessible accommodations**
- **Community and family friendly**
- **Contracted Operators (ATTC Certified)**
- **Fee based (balance between market rates-affordability)**
- **Advanced reservation system required (no drop-ins)**
- **Small group sizes**
- **Tours 2-2.5 hr. long**
- **Parking plan**
- **Regular inspections**
- **Year around operation (peak, shoulder, off-season)**



# **Next Steps & Timeline:**

- **Complete design and permitting**
- **Construction Winter 2012-13**
- **Open to Public Spring 2013**



# Opportunities for Feedback & Contact Information

## Bellevue Parks & Community Services

Scott Vander Hyden- Project Coordinator

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## Project Website

<http://bellevuewa.gov/sbcc-challenge-course-expansion.htm>





# ***Q & A***

